



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
5 POST OFFICE SQUARE, SUITE 100
BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

June 29, 2017

Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

Thank you for your letter regarding an approximate 275-acre property owned by Lincoln Paper and Tissue, LLC (LP&T), in Lincoln, Maine. This property is part of a former 387-acre paper mill that has operated at this location since 1910 under a series of owners. LP&T acquired property in 2004 from Lincoln Pulp & Paper Co., Inc. (Lincoln Pulp), the prior owner, in a bankruptcy sale. Staff of the pre-remedial, emergency response, and Brownfields programs from the Region 1 office in Boston have been working with the Town of Lincoln, along with other parties, on a plan to address the 387-acre property (facility) formerly owned and operated by Lincoln Pulp.

At the request of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been reviewing site conditions and considering how to address environmental contamination associated with the former Lincoln Pulp property. A January 27, 2017 Action Memorandum outlines certain time-critical actions that will be completed to address imminent and substantial risks at the site. In addition, at the request of MEDEP, EPA has been reviewing the facility to determine whether it is a candidate for inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is the list of national priorities among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the United States and its territories. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation and are priorities for federal government attention. Your letter indicates that the Town supports NPL listing of a portion of the 387-acre Lincoln Pulp facility.

Among EPA Region 1's ongoing efforts on this issue, the Brownfields Program continues to assist the town of Lincoln in identifying potential Brownfields funding opportunities to help meet the town's revitalization goals. We have also provided information to the town of Lincoln regarding eligibility criteria for the various Brownfields grant types. Brownfields funding eligibility is based on statutory criteria which must be met to receive Brownfield funding. The Brownfields Program provides grants, generally through a competitive process, for assessment, cleanup, and job training to support the revitalization of contaminated properties. The Region 1

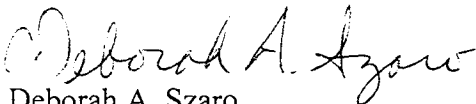
Brownfields Program is also a member of the Economic Development Assessment Team (EDAT).

My staff will continue to work with the Town, and MEDEP, as they endeavor to address environmental contamination and redevelopment of the former Lincoln Pulp property. We understand the Town's interest in utilizing Brownfields funding on a 90 – 100-acre portion of the property owned by LP&T. However, Brownfields funding is not available to be used within the boundaries of NPL sites. An NPL site is defined by the extent of the release or releases of contaminants from the facility listed or proposed for listing on the NPL. At this time, EPA has limited information regarding releases from the former Lincoln Pulp facility and their impact on the 90 – 100-acre portion of the property of interest to the town. However, it is possible that the release or releases extend onto some or all of the 90 – 100 acres which would impact the boundaries of a potential NPL site.

EPA intends to utilize all of its tools under Superfund to work with the community to achieve their cleanup and redevelopment goals in an expeditious and, if necessary, sequential manner.

Again thank you for your letter and your interest in the former Lincoln Pulp and Paper site. If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact my Brownfields Program Manager, John Podgurski at podgurski.john@epa.gov or (617) 918-1296. You may also contact Meghan Cassidy, who manages the Pre-Remedial program at cassidy.meghan@epa.gov or (617) 918-1387.

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Szaro
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: David Wright/Maine DEP
Bryan Olson/EPA Region 1
Raquel Snyder/EPA OCIR



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June 29, 2017

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate
188 Senate Russell Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

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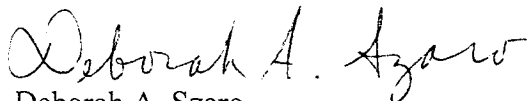
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Deborah A. Szaro
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